

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An inverse ~~inverse~~ emulsion comprising the product of admixing an aqueous phase and an oil phase, wherein

the weight ratio between the aqueous phase and the oil phase (aqueous phase : oil phase) is from 4:1 to 2:1, and

the inverse emulsion contains ~~containing~~ from 20 to 70% percent by weight of an anionic acrylic polymer, the anionic acrylic polymer being obtained by inverse emulsion polymerization ~~polymerisation~~ of:

~~one or more anionic acrylic monomers, at least one of which containing a strongly acidic functional group, dissolved in the aqueous phase, and~~

at least a one hydrophobic acrylic monomer dissolved in the oil phase ~~before the mixing of the two phases,~~

wherein

at least one of the one or more anionic acrylic monomers contains a strongly acidic functional group and

the percentage concentration of the at least one hydrophobic acrylic monomers on the total weight of the anionic acrylic monomers being is from 0.1% to 5% weight percent of the total weight of the one or more anionic acrylic monomers by weight.

2. (currently amended) The ~~inverse~~ inverse emulsion according to claim 1, wherein the ~~percentage of the hydrophobic acrylic monomers on the total weight of the anionic acrylic monomers~~ is from 0.5 to 1.5 % percent by weight of the anionic acrylic monomer.

3. (currently amended) The ~~inverse~~ inverse emulsion according to claim 1-~~or 2,~~ wherein the anionic acrylic monomer is 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropanesulfonic acid and/or its sodium salt.

4. (currently amended) ~~The inverse inverse~~ emulsion according to claim 3,
wherein the hydrophobic acrylic monomer ~~are~~ is an esters of acrylic or methacrylic
acid with C₄-C₂₀ linear or branched monofunctional alcohols.

5. (currently amended) ~~The inverse inverse~~ emulsion according to claim 4,
wherein the hydrophobic acrylic monomer is stearyl methacrylate or n-butyl
methacrylate.

6 (new) The inverse emulsion according to claim 2 wherein the anionic acrylic
monomer is 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropanesulfonic acid and/or its sodium salt.

7. (new) The inverse emulsion according to claim 6 wherein the hydrophobic
acrylic monomer is an ester of acrylic or methacrylic acid with C₄-C₂₀ linear or
branched monofunctional alcohols.

8. (new) The inverse emulsion according to claim 7 wherein the hydrophobic
acrylic monomer is stearyl methacrylate or n-butyl methacrylate.

~~6- 9.~~ (currently amended) ~~A Procedure~~ procedure for the preparation of an inverse
emulsion characterised by comprising:

- a. adding to a mixture of water and one or more anionic acrylic monomers_i, at
~~least one of which containing a strongly acidic functional group,~~
an aqueous solution of an alkali to regulate the pH between 4 and 10_i;
a cross-linking agent_i and
an initiator of radical ~~polymerization~~ polymerization to form a first admixture,
while maintaining the temperature of the first admixture between 0° and 5°C;
- b. preparing an oil phase containing from 0.1 to 10 % percent by weight of at
least one hydrophobic acrylic monomer and one or more water-in-oil
emulsifiers;

- c. introducing the first admixture obtained in a. into the oil phase prepared in b. and emulsifying the two phases by vigorous stirring;
- d. initiating a the polymerisation polymerization and completing it the polymerization while maintaining the a temperature between 55° and 95°C under and a vigorous stirring to prepare a second admixture; and
- e. cooling the ~~reaction~~ second mixture to 35-45°C and adding thereto an oil-in-water emulsifier;

wherein the one or more anionic acrylic monomers, comprises a strongly acidic functional group; and steps a and b may be performed in any order.

7. 10. (currently amended) The Procedure procedure for the preparation of an inverse emulsion according to claim 6-, 9 wherein the anionic acrylic monomer containing a strongly acidic functional group is 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropanesulfonic acid and/or its sodium salt.

8. 11. (currently amended) The Procedure procedure for the preparation of an inverse emulsion according to claim 7-, 10 wherein the hydrophobic acrylic monomers are esters of acrylic or methacrylic acid with C₄-C₂₀ linear or branched monofunctional alcohols.

9. 12. (currently amended) The Procedure procedure for the preparation of an inverse emulsion according to claim 8-, 11 wherein the hydrophobic acrylic monomers are stearyl methacrylate or n-butyl acrylate.

10. 13. (currently amended) The Procedure procedure for the preparation of an inverse emulsion according to claim 9-, 12 wherein the anionic acrylic monomers ~~dissolved in the aqueous phase~~ are a mixture of at least one monomer containing a strongly acidic functional group (AF) and one or more monomers containing a carboxylic group (AC), and wherein the weight ratio between AF and AC (AF:AC) ~~being comprised is~~ is from 4:1 and to 1:1.

11. ~~14.~~ (currently amended) ~~The Procedure~~ procedure for the preparation of an inverse emulsion according to claim ~~10.~~, 13 wherein the anionic acrylic monomers containing a carboxylic group are ~~chosen among~~ selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid.

12. ~~15.~~ (currently amended) ~~The Procedure~~ procedure for the preparation of an inverse emulsion according to ~~any of the claims from 6. to 11.~~, claim 9 wherein the anionic acrylic polymer obtained by inverse emulsion ~~polymerization~~ polymerization is cross-linked with from 0.01 % percent to 1 % percent by weight, ~~on~~ of the total weight of the monomers, of a compound containing two or more ethylenic groups.

13. ~~16.~~ (currently amended) ~~The Procedure~~ procedure for the preparation of an inverse emulsion according to claim ~~12.~~, 15 wherein the compound containing two or more ethylenic groups is methylene-bis-acrylamide.